

Service-Learning Update

Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

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Building Cultural Awareness Through Service-Learning

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For the past two months, Americans have been faced with a cultural explosion. The terrorist attacks of September 11 brought questions and confusion to the minds of all Americans – adults and children alike. One of the most important issues before us today is our relationship with other nations. We are struggling with issues of diversity within our own borders. Where does education and service-learning come into these issues? Everywhere! Service-learning projects have immense potential to incorporate the values of diversity and tolerance through interaction with people here in Pennsylvania and around the world. Use a service-learning project to put your students in contact with immigrants, refugees, international students, and organizations working with global issues, and with students in other countries as well!

Where do we begin a service-learning project with a world cultures theme? Start by simply talking about the terrorist attacks with your students in constructive ways. Some very useful websites offering lesson plans and information for teachers can be found at websites of any of these organizations:

Oxfam

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org>

PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/educators.html>

World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

<http://www.worldaffairspittsburgh.org/>

Oxfam's website gives suggestions for projects and fundraisers for students that raise awareness about Afghanistan. PBS's

site provides links to a variety of lesson plans for older students dealing with Afghanistan, multiculturalism, and human rights. The World Affairs Council has teaching resources for teachers such as a detailed list of terms relating to the current situation. They have also extended an invitation to all teachers to suggest information or school presentations their organization could provide to increase understanding during this crisis.

It is also important that students begin to focus on the larger issue of respect for other cultures. A great way to begin doing so is by having them take a look at Tolerance.org's "101 Tools for Tolerance" website which includes suggestions to increase tolerance such as starting pen-pal programs between your students and others around the world. Follow this link to learn more: http://www.tolerance.org/101_tools/index.html

With these lesson plans and resources in your hands, turn to your students for a service-learning brainstorm session! What kinds of projects could be done to raise awareness about Afghanistan, Muslim Americans, and the importance of respecting all cultures? If you are teaching art, start a poster project celebrating diversity in your local community and spend a day putting them around town! If you teach history, do an oral history project with the Muslim community in your area, and have students create a website with the results! If you teach a Life Skills courses, have your students put together a care package for refugees to your city, full of tips on transportation, grocery stores, banks, and other important information! Students can research and contact international organizations in the local community and find which one they could best serve through a service-learning project. Through service to many diverse people, students have the opportunity to gain respect for those different from themselves.

Americans are faced with a cultural challenge today. In educating our children

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about the diversity that makes our country what it is, we pass on a legacy of multiculturalism and move towards a future built on respect for others and tolerance. Use service-learning as a tool for expanding understanding in your students and community!

For more tips on planning a service-learning project with a world cultures, diversity, and international focus, attend the World Cultures Service-Learning and Character Education workshop of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education (PACE) on December 11th at the University of Pittsburgh. For more information, contact Jessica Friedrichs at jxf243@hotmail.com or 412-648-1481.

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Tips and Ideas for Thanksgiving

Environment

In preparation for Thanksgiving, Art students can create environmental art that can decorate their home or school for the Thanksgiving holiday. Visit any of these websites to learn more about Thanksgiving art projects that involve the use of recycled materials:

Toilet Paper Tube Turkey

<http://www.kinderart.com/seasons/tpturkey.htm>

A Waste Not Pilgrim

<http://www.thefamilycorner.com/homegardening/crafts/pilgrim.shtml>

Turkey Napkin Rings

<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/pp/crafts/tg-napkin-rings.htm>

Technology

There are thousands and thousands of websites dedicated to sharing information about Thanksgiving. From how to cook a turkey to the history of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Internet is a great resource for students to learn about the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition to using technology to

learn about Thanksgiving, encourage your students to compile a list of Thanksgiving websites for posting at a local community technology center or a library computer lab. Here are some Thanksgiving websites to get you started:

Thanksgiving on the Net

<http://www.holidays.net/thanksgiving/>

Kids Domain Thanksgiving

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/thanks/>

A Virtual Tour of the Plymouth Plantation

<http://pilgrims.net/plymouth/>

The American Thanksgiving Tradition

<http://www.plimoth.org/Library/Thanksgiving/thanksgi.htm>

Health/ Human Needs

While Thanksgiving is a time noted for fabulous feasts, there are many who go without a wholesome meal, even on a holiday such as Thanksgiving. Health students, or even students enrolled in a Family and Consumer Science or Life Skills course, could learn more about hunger and malnutrition. As a follow-up, they can sponsor a canned food drive or collect money for an organization that distributes Turkeys and all the trimmings to those who cannot afford a holiday meal this Thanksgiving. Visit any of these websites for ideas on how your students can address the issue of hunger this Thanksgiving:

Turkeys R Us

<http://www.turkeysrus.com/>

Feed-a-Friend

<http://www.wnep.com/community/feedafriend/>

Special Days and Events to Celebrate with Service-Learning

There are all kinds of special days and events during the month of November that

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can be used to promote a service-learning project:

National Children's Book Week is November 12th-18th

While it is always a great idea to encourage reading by visiting the local library and borrowing books to read at home, creating a book can be another great way to encourage reading. In honor of Children's Book Week, a great service-learning project would be one that involves high school Child Development or English students writing and creating children's books for an elementary classroom of local library. For more ideas about National Children's Book Week, visit any of these websites:

Children's Book Council

<http://www.cbcbooks.org>

National Children's Book Week

<http://www.booktrusted.com/cbw/cbw.htm>

Motivational Ideas for Children's Book Week

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/bookweek.htm>

Children's Literature Web Guide

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/>

Veteran's Day is November 12th

A local Veterans Administration hospital or nursing home is a great place to celebrate Veteran's Day with a service-learning project. Challenge your History students to come up with a service-learning project for Veteran's Day this year! Visit any of these websites for more information about Veteran's Day:

Veteran's Day from the Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov/vetsday/index.cfm>

Computing Corner Celebrates Veteran's Day

<http://www.computingcorner.com/holidays/vets/veterans.html>

Patriotism.Org

<http://www.patriotism.org/>

National American Teddy Bear Day is November 14th

Domestic abuse shelters are full of children who have had to abandon their home with their mother and leave behind their toys and stuffed animals. Launch a teddy bear collection on National American Teddy Bear Day with your Child Development or Family and Consumer Science students and start collecting teddy bears for children living in shelters! Visit any of these websites for information about domestic abuse shelters:

National Domestic Abuse Hotline

<http://www.ndvh.org/>

Myths and Facts about Domestic Violence

http://members.iquest.net/~gtemp/dv_facts.htm

She's Got Help

<http://www.shesgothelp.com/>

Great American Smokeout is November 15th

Teen smoking is not just a problem it is an epidemic. The Great American Smokeout is one great excuse to encourage your Health students to spread the word about the dangers of smoking amongst the student body of your school district. Visit any of these websites for tips and ideas for smoking cessation projects:

List of Links for Smoking Education Sources

<http://www.duke.edu/~sam7/newpage2.htm>

Tobacco, Quitting and Health (From the American Cancer Society)

http://www.cancer.org/eprise/main/docroot/SPC/SPC_0

Quit Smoking

<http://www.quitsmoking.com/default.htm>

World Peace Day is November 17th

Spread peace via service-learning! In honor of World Peace Day, encourage your students to organize an activity at a local elementary school that encourages peace instead of violence on the playground. Any of these websites offer great tips for anti-bullying programs and World Peace Day:

World Peace Day: Kid's Peace Page

<http://www.peaceday.org/wpdkids.htm>

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World Peace

<http://www.worldpeace.org/>

Anti-Bullying Network

<http://www.antibullying.net/>

Anti-Bullying and Gang Resources

<http://www.therapeuticresources.com/antibullying.html>

Bullying: Everybody's Business

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/INFO7/contents.htm>

National Game and Puzzle Week is November 18th-24th

The local senior citizen center always has a few good checker or chess players in need of a game partner! During National Game and Puzzle Week, encourage your students to adopt a group of senior citizens who may be lonely and in need of companionship. Playing games and putting together puzzles can be very uplifting and fun experiences for both the students and the seniors! Visit any of these websites for ideas on how to connect your students with senior citizens:

Three Rivers Free-Net: Senior Citizens

<http://trfn.clpgh.org/Populations/seniors/>

Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps

http://solstice.crest.org/environment/renew_america/98nar/98u3682.htm

Generations Together

<http://www.gt.pitt.edu/>

National Stop the Violence Day is November 22nd

School violence is an issue no one wants to think about these days, but unfortunately we live in a time when violence is often the first measure taken in times of conflict. On National Stop the Violence Day challenge your students to come up with a list of alternatives to violence. This list can be made into a bulletin board where the entire student body can reflect upon the ramifications of school violence and the alternatives your students suggest. Visit any of these websites for more information about school violence:

Center for the Prevention of School Violence

<http://www.ncsu.edu/cpsv/>

Stopping School Violence

<http://www.ncpc.org/2schvio.htm>

Web lessons on school violence from the Constitutional Rights Foundation

<http://www.crf-usa.org/violence/intro.html>

School Violence from the ERIC Clearinghouse

<http://ericcass.uncg.edu/virtuallib/violence/violencebook.html>

Anniversary of the birth of Andrew Carnegie is November 25th

In the Pittsburgh region, Andrew Carnegie was responsible for starting the free library system. In honor of his birthday, consider getting your English students to adopt a local library and assist with activities such as story hour for children, cataloging and shelving books (a great way to learn the Dewey Decimal System!), and staffing the help desk. For more information on libraries, visit any of these websites:

Commonwealth Libraries

<http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/site/default.asp>

Free Library of Philadelphia

<http://www.library.phila.gov/>

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

<http://www.clpgh.org/>

Fall Training Events with the Staff of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

The PSLA has a lot of great workshops planned for November and December (*lots of opportunities to earn your Act 48 hours!*) in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Mark the dates and register soon!

Pittsburgh

To register for any of the workshops in Pittsburgh, please phone Cathy at (412) 648-1440 and request that registration materials be faxed or emailed to you.

Wednesday, November 14th: Special Education Service-Learning Workshop

This is a chance for teachers to learn about the role of service-learning in special education curricula. The theme of the workshop will be character education and workshop participants will learn more about how service-learning and character education easily go hand in hand. Time: 10am – 2pm; Place: University of Pittsburgh. This workshop includes lunch and Act 48 hours will be given. **Deadline to register is November 12th!**

Saturday, November 17th: Recycling Workshop

This workshop, designed for those who teach or work with students in grades 7-12, will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about recycling and service-learning. If you are interested in learning how to start a recycling program in your school, you don't want to miss this workshop! Hal Kaufman from the Pennsylvania Resources Council will be on hand to speak about the benefits of recycling. Also on the agenda is a creative hands-on activity that will involve making recycled paper. Time: 9am-3pm; Place: University of Pittsburgh. Lunch is included and Act 48 hours will be given. **Deadline to register is November 14th!**

Tuesday, November 27th: Special Education

Service-Learning Workshop

Another opportunity to learn about service-learning in special education. This workshop will be a repeat of the November 14th character education workshop. We are offering the workshop twice so that teachers who cannot make the workshop during the school day can attend during after school hours. Time: 4pm – 7pm; Place: University of Pittsburgh. Light refreshments will be served and Act 48 hours will be given. **Deadline to register is November 19th!**

Thursday, December 8th: Let's Go to the Park!

Bob Hanke, Schenley Park Foreman, will help the PSLA facilitate this experiential workshop. Designed for K-6 teachers, this is the opportunity to learn more about how students can get involved with environmental projects in Schenley Park. If the weather allows, an outdoor hands-on activity will be incorporated into the workshop. Time: 9am – 3pm; Place: University of Pittsburgh/Schenley Park. Lunch is included and Act 48 hours will be given. **Deadline to register is December 1st! Call Sarah for more information: (412) 648-1481**

Tuesday, December 11th: World Cultures

and Character Education Workshop

How can you incorporate themes of diversity, tolerance, internationalization, and world cultures into a service-learning project? This workshop is designed for educators at the junior high and high school level in any curriculum area. Speakers from internationally focused organizations in Pittsburgh will present resources they can provide for your project! Time: 9am – 3pm; Place: University of Pittsburgh. Lunch will be served and Act 48 hours will be given. **Register by December 6th! Call Jessica for more information: (412) 648-1481**

Starting in January: Act 48 Computer Workshops

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Sponsored by the PSLA and Faith Tech, teachers can register to receive basic technology instruction and earn Act 48 hours in the process. From how to turn on the computer to tips on email and web searches, these basic computer classes will be very helpful for teachers with limited computer skills. Classes will be offered in Penn Hills and the North Side starting in January. To receive a schedule and registration materials, contact Cathy at (412) 648-1440.

Philadelphia

Computer Basics and Service-Learning 4-Part Workshop:

**November 26th & 29th,
and December 3rd & 6th**

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day

This introductory computer class will provide hands on learning with technology as well as group discussion and resources around service learning application. Discover technology in the non-threatening environment of the Gratz Youth-Driven Service Learning Center. The very basics of hardware, Microsoft Word, the Internet, online research, and online learning resources will be covered.

We will also explore Service Learning, and talk about how technology can be a tool for developing and implementing service-learning projects with your students. Community organizations will be on hand to discuss the resources they provide for technology learning with students, and to share opportunities they have for students around technology service.

This class is free for all teachers. Act 48 Credit for this class will be provided by the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance.

Please register by November 12th if possible.

For more information about this opportunity, contact Faith Goldstein at the PSLA office in Philadelphia, (215) 573-6535, or go to: <http://www.delawarevalley.org/psla/gratzworkshop.html>